CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of configuring network devices comprising:
preparing a page for sending to a client process from a server, the page comprising a form having a plurality of input fields and a submit button;
associating with the form one of a first submit method for obtaining information about a state of a particular network device, and a second submit method for changing the state of the particular network device;
sending the page to the client process; and
in response to activation of the submit button in the client process, executing routines to operate on the particular network device based on a submit method associated with the form.

2. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the form includes a hidden variable having a value for uniquely identifying the particular network device.

3. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said executing routines to operate on the particular network device comprises,
determining whether a first variable for data input associated with the first submit method is empty, and
if it is determined that the first variable is not empty, then
executing get routines to obtain information about the state of the particular network device, and
assigning values for the plurality of input fields based on the information about the state of the particular network device; and
wherein the method further comprises sending the page to the client process including the form with the second submit method after said assigning.

4. A method as recited in Claim 3, wherein said executing routines to operate on the particular network device further comprising:

if it is determined that the first variable is empty, then:

obtaining current values of the plurality of input fields from a second variable associated with the second submit method; and

executing set routines to change the state of the particular network device based on the current values of the plurality of input fields.

5. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the first submit method is a form get method returning values of the plurality of input fields in a first environmental variable; and

the second submit method is a form post method returning values of the plurality of input fields in a second environmental variable.

6. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the second submit method is a form get method returning values of the plurality of input fields in a first environmental variable; and

the first submit method is a form post method returning values of the plurality of input fields in a second environmental variable.

7. A method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the page is a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) page; the first environmental variable is a "Request.QueryString"; and the second environmental variable is a Request.Form.

8. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the steps of preparing a page and executing routines are performed by a processor configured based on statements of a scripting language in a single script file.

9. A method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the form further comprises a reference to the single script file associated with activation of the submit button.

10. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for configuring network devices, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

preparing a page for sending to a client process from a server, the page comprising a form having a plurality of input fields and a submit button;

associating with the form one of a first submit method for obtaining information about a state of a particular network device, and a second submit method for changing the state of the particular network device;

sending the page to the client process; and

in response to activation of the submit button in the client process, executing routines to operate on the particular network device based on a submit method associated with the form.

11. A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

during said executing routines to operate on the particular network device,

determining whether a first variable for data input associated with the first submit method is empty, and

if it is determined that the first variable is not empty, then

executing get routines to obtain information about the state of the particular network device, and

assigning values for the plurality of input fields based on the information about the state of the particular network device; and

sending the page to the client process including the form with the second submit method after said assigning.

12. A computer system for configuring network devices:

a network interface; and

one or more processors connected to the network interface, the one or more processors configured for

preparing a page for sending to a client process from a server, the page comprising a form having a plurality of input fields and a submit button;

associating with the form one of a first submit method for obtaining information about a state of a particular network device, and a second submit method for changing the state of the particular network device;

sending the page to the client process; and

in response to activation of the submit button in the client process, executing routines to operate on the particular network device based on a submit method associated with the form.

13. An apparatus for configuring network devices, the apparatus comprising:

a means for preparing a page for sending to a client process from a server, the page comprising a form having a plurality of input fields and a submit button;

a means for associating with the form one of a first submit method for obtaining information about a state of a particular network device, and a second submit method for changing the state of the particular network device;

a means for sending the page to the client process; and

a means for executing routines to operate on the particular network device, in response to activation of the submit button in the client process based on a submit method associated with the form.